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AFA-M2M

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 -It pays to be a member of AFA—literally.  
 -Never, ever, ever let your membership expire.

# Identify This Chick

Several members guessed that the chick featured in *Watchbird*, Vol. XXXIX Nos. 2&3 was a toucan, when it was an image of a Green Aracari chick (*Pteroglossus viridis*), presented by Jason Crean.

The species is named for the green feathers covering its back. Males' crowns are black, while females' are reddish-brown.

Its diet consists mostly of fruit, including the fruits of Cecropia trees and the palm *Oenocarpus bacaba*. The serrated edges of the Green Aracari's large bill help the bird to grip and gather fruit. Insects are also an occasional part of the diet, giving the birds protein.

Breeding occurs from February to June. It nests in tree cavities, producing two–four white eggs. The parents cooperate in rearing their young.

In captivity it is the most frequently bred member of the toucan family and is the most popular as a tame hand-fed pet. It requires a large cage and enrichment to prevent boredom due to its active nature, and a high-fruit diet. When all these requirements are met it is an affectionate companion for many years.

John Bornemann correctly identified the baby chick in the photo. Congratulations!

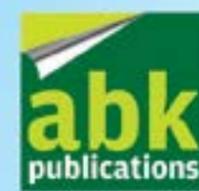
Look for additional baby bird pictures received by our membership for you to



Photos by Jason Crean

identify in the future. To submit a photo, please contact the AFA *Watchbird* editor at [afawatchbird@afabirds.org](mailto:afawatchbird@afabirds.org)

# Words on Birds...



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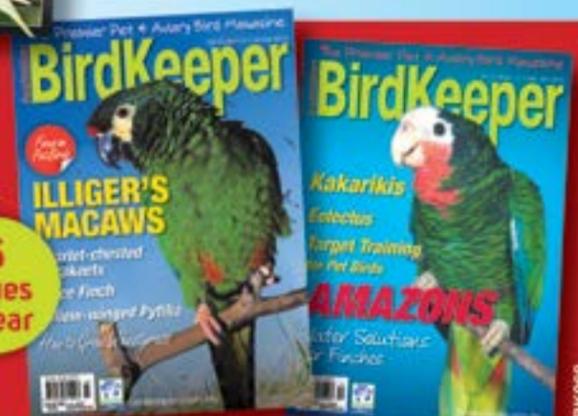
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# Five Behaviors for a Well Behaved Bird

By Barbara Heidenreich



Parrots are often described as inherently difficult companion animals. However a well behaved pet, whether it is a bird or mammal, is often in reality the result of good training and not necessarily the animal's genetics. When caregivers are armed with this knowledge, they are empowered to teach their birds to be wonderfully well behaved.

Well behaved birds are often thought of as ones who will readily respond to our requests for various behaviors. They are cooperative and eager to engage. Creating a parrot that can't wait to present good behavior is the result of training with positive reinforcement. When we reinforce an action, we are increasing the likelihood our bird will do the desired behavior again in the future. Positive reinforcers are anything we can add to the environment to increase behavior. Usually positive reinforcers are things our parrots seek to acquire such as food treats, toys and attention.

Another important aspect of training with positive reinforcement includes allowing your bird the choice to participate or not. This sometimes feels a bit counterintuitive, but in truth allowing your bird to walk or fly away will make him more likely to participate in the future.

Some caregivers may feel compelled to force a bird to comply with a request.

Photographs by Barbara Heidenreich